

## REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are currently pending and stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 3,838,223 issued to Lee et al. (herein Lee) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 3,902,017 issued to Steward (herein Steward). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for at least the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1 discloses the following apparatus:

**A circuit for determining the polarity of an on hook voltage between the tip and ring of a telephone**, said circuit comprising:

a charge storage device for storing charge for a first time period in response to a voltage presented across terminals of a telephone while said telephone is in the on hook state;

a switch for causing the charge storage device to periodically discharge for a second time period, the second time period being less than the first predetermined time period; and

**a latch for capturing a reversal of polarity of said voltage.**

Method claim 6 and apparatus claim 9 include similar limitations.

The Lee reference discloses a ring trip detection circuit to detect the operations of a telephone hookswitch during ringing. The circuit includes two NAND gates, which are controlled by pulses of the ring signal and the current regulated by the hookswitch (Figure 6, Column 7 Lines 3-23). Lee further discloses a flip-flop coupled to the outputs of the gates (Column 8 Lines 42-44). As such, the flip-flop is concomitantly set and reset by the state of the hookswitch and the ring signal pulses. The Office Action has cited Lee as disclosing the claim limitation of a latch for capturing a reversal of polarity of the on hook voltage between the tip and ring of a telephone. However, as stated above, Lee discloses the flip-flop is set and reset by Boolean logic values corresponding to pulses of the ring signal and the state of the hookswitch. There is no teaching or suggestion of a

latch used to capture the reversal of polarity of an on-hook voltage between the tip and ring of a telephone as set forth in claims 1, 6, and 9.

Likewise, the Steward reference in no way discloses a latch used to capture a reversal of polarity of an on-hook voltage. Thus, claims 1, 6, and 9 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Lee in view of Steward, as neither reference, alone, or in combination, teach or suggest this claim limitation.

Claims 2-5, 7-8, and 10-16 depend from claims 1, 6, and 9. In addition to any independent basis for patentability, claims 2-5, 7-8, and 10-16 are patentable over the cited references by virtue of at least such dependency. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the §103(a) rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that for at least the foregoing reasons, all rejections have been overcome. Applicant submits all claims are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. Any fees in connection with this communication may be directed to Deposit Account No. 02-2666

Respectfully submitted,  
**BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN, LLP**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

9/11/03

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